



State of Wisconsin
Jim Doyle, Governor

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent



*****NEWS RELEASE*****

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Wisconsin schools encouraged to apply for school health awards

Application deadline for 2009 award is March 13

MADISON—Governor Jim Doyle and State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster are encouraging schools to apply for the Governor's School Health Award. The award recognizes those schools that promote healthy eating, physical activity, drug-free lifestyle, parental involvement, and staff wellness. Over the last three years 63 Wisconsin schools have received either bronze, silver, or gold awards.

"Our schools in Wisconsin work hard to create environments that promote health and student success," Governor Doyle said. "I am pleased to recognize schools for their efforts to educate students, school staff members, and families on how to make healthy choices that last a lifetime."

"We know that the most successful schools approach health as a coordinated effort that involves all school staff, families, and the community," said Burmaster. "School health award winners are improving their students' long-term nutritional and physical health. Healthier students support healthier communities, which in turn support a healthier Wisconsin."

The school health award application consists of six sections, with each one focusing on an area related to school health. The sections are: School Policies and Management, Physical Education and Physical Activity, Healthy Eating and Nutrition Education, Alcohol-, Tobacco-, and Drug-Free Lifestyles, Parent and School Partnerships, and Staff Wellness.

Interested schools have until March 13, 2009, to apply for the 2009 awards. Schools should preregister for the program via the web at <http://www.schoolhealthaward.wi.gov>, assemble a team to review the school's health initiatives, and then complete and submit the award application.

A review panel from the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Health and the departments of Health Services and Public Instruction will evaluate the applications and recommend awards at the bronze, silver, and gold levels. An award ceremony will be held in May 2009 to recognize those schools receiving a Governor's School Health Award.

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NOTE: This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008_155.pdf. Additional information about the Governor's School Health Award program can be found at <http://www.schoolhealthaward.wi.gov>.